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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

09/913821

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL121023486US

International Application No.: PCT/GB00/00627

Priority Date Claimed: February 25, 1999

Title of Invention: MOULDS AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

Applicant(s): YIASSEMIDES, George Paul and MASELKOWSKI, Carlo Robert

Attorney's Docket Number: 814/15

U.S. Application No. _____

International Filing Date: February 20, 2000

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date and the US has been elected.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An Oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). (**UNSIGNED**)
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An Assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** Preliminary Amendment.
14. ☒ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** Preliminary Amendment.
15. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report prepared by the European Patent Office.
16. ☐ A change of Power of Attorney and/or address letter.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
19. ☒ A Power of Attorney (**UNSIGNED**)
20. ☐ An application data sheet
21. ☐ Other items or information:

17. X The following fees are submitted:**Basic National Fee (37 C.F.R. 1.492(a)(1)-(5):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) to USPTO and ISR not prepared by EPO or JPO

\$1000.00

CALCULATIONS

09/913821

International preliminary examination fee not paid to USPTO (37 C.F.R. 1.482) but international search fee prepared by EPO or JPO

\$ 860.00

\$ 860.00

International preliminary examination fee not paid to USPTO (37 C.F.R. 1.482) but international search fee (37 C.F.R. 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USP.T.O

\$ 710.00

\$

International preliminary examination fee paid to U.S. P.T.O. (37 C.F.R. 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)

\$ 690.00

\$

International preliminary examination fee paid to U.S. P.T.O. (37 C.F.R. 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)

\$ 100.00

\$

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT

\$ 860.00

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 20 X 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 C.F.R. 1.492(e)).

\$ 130.00

Claims Number Filed Number Extra Rate

Total Claims 90 -20 70 x 18.00

\$ 1,260.00

Independent Claims 4 -3 1 x 80.00

\$ 80.00

Multiple Dependent claim(s) (if applicable) x 270.00

\$

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS:

\$ 2,330.00

X Applicant claims small entity status. (37 CFR 1.27) The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.

\$ 1,165.00

SUBTOTAL:

\$ 1,165.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later the 20 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 C.F.R. 1.492(f)).

\$

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE:

\$ 1,165.00

Fee for recording the enclosed Assignment (37 C.F.R. 1.21(h)). The Assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 C.F.R. 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property

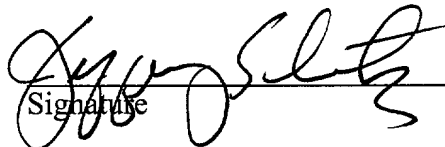
\$

TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED:\$ 1,165.00

- a. X A check in the amount of \$1,165.00 to over the above fees is enclosed.
- b. — Please charge my Deposit Account No. 01-0265 in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. X The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0265. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Signature

Jeffrey J. Schwartz Reg. No. 37,532
 Name and Registration No.
 Date: August 17, 2001

09/913821

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518 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 AUG 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: YIASEMIDES, G. et al.

INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION NO.: PCT/GB00/00627

INTERNATIONAL
FILING DATE: February 23, 2000

FOR: MOULDS AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

After the assignment of a serial number and prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, please make the following amendments:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the title of the invention, insert the heading --Technical Field and Background of the Invention--.

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line on page 1:

--This application is a national stage application, according to Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. This application claims the priority date of February 25, 1999 for Great Britain Patent Application No. 9904205.3.--

On page 1, line 20, before the paragraph beginning "According to the present invention..." insert the heading --Summary of the Invention--.

On page 7, line 19, before the sentence beginning "Embodiments of the present invention..." insert the heading --Brief Description of the Drawings--.

On page 7, line 25, before the sentence beginning "Fig.1 shows a mould..." insert the following heading --Description of the Preferred Embodiment and Best Mode--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows

4. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that the first material comprises steel.

7. (Amended) A mould according to claim 5, characterized in that the first material comprises H13 or AISI 420.

8. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that the second material comprises copper or a copper alloy.

11. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that the third material comprises nickel or a nickel alloy.

12. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that the second part is in the form of one or more inserts (22, 24, 26) locatable in one or more recesses (16, 18,

20) in the first part (12).

13. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that the first part (12) provides a required minimum thickness of material for all of the mould surface (14).

15. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that the third part is in the form of a coating on the first or second part or both.

17. (Amended) A mould according to claim 15, characterized in that the coating is formed by electroplating and is 5 to 50µm thick.

19. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that holes (28) are provided extending through at least the first part to permit ejector pins to extend therethrough for rejection of items from the mould (10), or for core pins or slides.

20. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that passages (32) are provided extending through the first (12) and/or second (22, 24, 26) parts to permit cooling fluids and/or heating elements to extend therethrough.

22. (Amended) A mould according to claim 20, characterized in that an insert (34) of

the first material is provided in the second part (26) to receive a passage (32) from the first part (12), or vice versa.

23. (Amended) A mould according to claim 1, characterized in that the mould comprises a number of cooperable parts, with each part being according to the invention.

26. (Amended) A mould according to claim 23, characterized in that insert members (50) are provided in the second part (26).

28. (Amended) A mould according to claim 26, characterized in that the insert members (50) are of the first material.

29. (Amended) A mould according to claim 23, characterized in that the first part (12) is in the form of a generally constant thickness layer (56) on the second member (54).

31. (Amended) A mould according to claim 23, characterized in that the part of the first part (12) which faces the second part and/or the part of the second part which faces the first part (12) have a relatively large surface area.

34. (Amended) A mould according to claim 32, characterized in that corresponding interengaging formations are provided on each of the first and second parts.

35. (Amended) A method of making a mould, characterized in that the mould (10, 40, 44, 48, 52, 58, 62, 74, 80, 90, 100) is according to claim 1.

38. (Amended) A method according to claim 36, characterized in that the composite blank is formed by locating the first, second and third materials together and subjecting to hot isostatic pressing to form metallic bonds respectively between the first and third, and second and third materials.

40. (Amended) A method according to claim 38, characterized in that the pressing takes place at a temperature of 400 to 1350°C.

41. (Amended) A method according to claim 38, characterized in that the pressing takes place at a pressure of 400 to 3000 bar.

42. (Amended) A method according to claim 39, characterized in that the sealed container is substantially evacuated of fluids prior to pressing.

43. (Amended) A method according to claim 36, characterized in that the composite blank may be formed by locating the first, second and third materials together and subjecting to uniaxial pressing to form metallic bonds respectively between the first and third, and second and third materials.

44. (Amended) A method according to claim 38, characterized in that the third part is applied on to the first (12) or second part by electroplating.

45. (Amended) A method according to claim 38, characterized in that the third part is provided as a foil or applied by electroless plating.

46. (Amended) A method according to claim 35, characterized in that the mould is heat treated before and/or after machining.

47. (Amended) A method according to claim 35, characterized in that the second part may be formed by machining.

48. (Amended) A method according to claim 35, characterized in that where the second part is in the form of one or more inserts (22, 24, 26) locatable in one or more cavities (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12), the second part is formed by filling the or each cavity (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12) with the second material in powder form, which powder forms the second part (22, 24, 26) during uniaxial or hot isostatic pressing.

49. (Amended) A method according to claim 35, characterized in that where the second part (22, 24, 26) is in the form of one or more sheets locatable in one or more cavities in the first part, the second part (22, 24, 26) is cast in the or each cavity (16, 18,

20)in the first part (12).

50. (Amended) A method according to claim 48, characterized in that the walls of the or each cavity (16, 18, 20) are initially coated with a layer of the third material.

52. (Amended) A method according to claim 35, characterized in that where the first part (12) is in the form of a substantially constant thickness layer, the underside (non-moulding surface) of the first part (12) is machined from a block of first material.

56. (Amended) A method according to claim 54, characterized in that once the second part (54) has been formed and bonded to the underside of the mould surface of the first part (12), the first part (12) is formed by machining.

57. (Amended) A method according to claim 35, characterized in that the first part (12) is formed by hot isostatic or uniaxial pressing of powdered first material.

60. (Amended) A method according to claim 58, characterized in that the first part (84) is formed as layer (84) between two formers (78, 82).

63. (Amended) A method according to claim 61, characterized in that the former (78)

is made of steel, graphite or ceramic.

68. (Amended) A mould according to claim 65, characterized in that the channels (64, 94) have a width and depth of between 2 and 10mm.

69. (Amended) A mould according to claim 65, characterized in that the channels (64, 94) are lined with pipes (68, 96).

73. (Amended) A mould according to claim 66, characterized in that the first part (70, 98) and/or the base part (66, 92) are made of a tool or mould steel.

75. (Amended) A mould according to claim 65, characterized in that the third material is nickel or a nickel alloy.

76. (Amended) A mould according to claim 65, characterized in that a second part (76, 102) is provided on the surface of the base part (66, 104).

78. (Amended) A mould according to claim 76, characterized in that a layer of third material is provided between the second part (76, 102) and the base part (66, 104).

79. (Amended) A mould according to claim 76, characterized in that the second part

(76, 102) is in the form of a substantially uniform thickness layer.

81. (Amended) A mould according to claim 76, characterized in that the second material comprises copper or a copper alloy.

82. (Amended) A mould according to claim 65, characterized in that the first part (70, 98) is in the form of a substantially uniform thickness layer.

84. (Amended) A method of forming a mould according to claim 65.

87. (Amended) A method according to claim 85, characterized in that the slots are lined with pipes (68, 96) which during the hot isostatic pressing expand to fill the slots (64, 94).

88. (Amended) A method according to claim 85, characterized in that the pipes (68, 96) are filled with a sacrificial powder such as graphite which is subsequently removed.

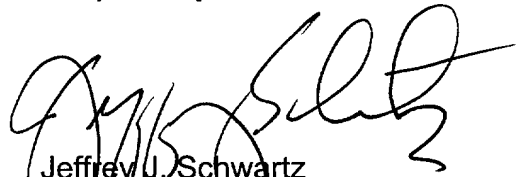
89. (Amended) A method according to claim 84, characterized in that where a second part is provided between the first and base parts, the second part is located therebetween prior to pressing.

APPLICANT: YIASEMIDES, G. et al.
INT'L APP. NO.: PCT/GB00/00627
Page 10

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(ii), a marked-up copy of these claims is included with this Preliminary Amendment and labeled as "Exhibit A". It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDED CLAIMS - MARKED-UP COPY
(International Patent Application No. PCT/GB00/00627)

4. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, characterized in that the first material comprises steel.

7. (Amended) A mould according to [claims 5 and 6] claim 5, characterized in that the first material comprises H13 or AISI 420.

8. (Amended) A mould according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the second material comprises copper or a copper alloy.

11. (Amended) A mould according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the third material comprises nickel or a nickel alloy.

12. (Amended) A mould according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the second part is in the form of one or more inserts (22, 24, 26) locatable in one or more recesses (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12).

13. (Amended) A mould according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the first part (12) provides a required minimum thickness of material for all of the mould surface (14).

15. (Amended) A mould according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the third part is in the form of a coating on the first or second part or both.

17. (Amended) A mould according to [claims 15 and 16] claim 15, characterized in that the coating is formed by electroplating and is 5 to 50µm thick.

19. (Amended) A mould according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that holes (28) are provided extending through at least the first part to permit ejector pins to extend therethrough for rejection of items from the mould (10), or for core pins or slides.

20. (Amended) A mould according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that passages (32) are provided extending through the first (12) and/or second (22, 24, 26) parts to permit cooling fluids and/or heating elements to extend therethrough.

22. (Amended) A mould according to [claims 20 or 21] claim 20, characterized in that an insert (34) of the first material is provided in the second part (26) to receive a passage (32) from the first part (12), or vice versa.

23. (Amended) A mould according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, characterized in that the mould comprises a number of cooperable parts, with each part being according to the invention.

26. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 23 to 25] claim 23, characterized in that insert members (50) are provided in the second part (26).

28. (Amended) A mould according to [claims 26 or 27] claim 26, characterized in that the insert members (50) are of the first material.

29. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 23 to 28] claim 23, characterized in that the first part (12) is in the form of a generally constant thickness layer (56) on the second member (54).

31. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 23 to 30] claim 23, characterized in that the part of the first part (12) which faces the second part and/or the part of the second part which faces the first part (12) have a relatively large surface area.

34. (Amended) A mould according to [claims 32 or 33] claim 32, characterized in that corresponding interengaging formations are provided on each of the first and second parts.

35. (Amended) A method of making a mould, characterized in that the mould (10, 40, 44, 48, 52, 58, 62, 74, 80, 90, 100) is according to [any of the preceding claims] claim 1.

38. (Amended) A method according to [claims 36 or 37] claim 36, characterized in that the composite blank is formed by locating the first, second and third materials together and subjecting to hot isostatic pressing to form metallic bonds respectively between the first and third, and second and third materials.

40. (Amended) A method according to [claims 38 or 39] claim 38, characterized in that the pressing takes place at a temperature of 400 to 1350°C.

41. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 38 to 40] claim 38, characterized in that the pressing takes place at a pressure of 400 to 3000 bar.

42. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 39 to 41] claim 39, characterized in that the sealed container is substantially evacuated of fluids prior to pressing.

43. (Amended) A method according to [claims 36 or 37] claim 36, characterized in that the composite blank may be formed by locating the first, second and third materials together and subjecting to uniaxial pressing to form metallic bonds respectively between the first and third, and second and third materials.

44. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 38 to 43] claim 38, characterized in that the third part is applied on to the first (12) or second part by electroplating.

45. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 38 to 43] claim 38, characterized in that the third part is provided as a foil or applied by electroless plating.

46. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 35 to 45] claim 35, characterized in that the mould is heat treated before and/or after machining.

47. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 35 to 46] claim 35, characterized in that the second part may be formed by machining.

48. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 35 to 47] claim 35, characterized in that where the second part is in the form of one or more inserts (22, 24, 26) locatable in one or more cavities (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12), the second part is formed by filling the or each cavity (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12) with the second material in powder form, which powder forms the second part (22, 24, 26) during uniaxial or hot isostatic pressing.

49. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 35 to 47] claim 35, characterized in that where the second part (22, 24, 26) is in the form of one or more sheets locatable in one or more cavities in the first part, the second part (22, 24, 26) is cast in the or each

cavity (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12).

50. (Amended) A method according to [claims 48 or 49] claim 48, characterized in that the walls of the or each cavity (16, 18, 20) are initially coated with a layer of the third material.

52. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 35 to 51] claim 35, characterized in that where the first part (12) is in the form of a substantially constant thickness layer, the underside (non-moulding surface) of the first part (12) is machined from a block of first material.

56. (Amended) A method according to [claims 54 or 55] claim 54, characterized in that once the second part (54) has been formed and bonded to the underside of the mould surface of the first part (12), the first part (12) is formed by machining.

57. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 35 to 56] claim 35, characterized in that the first part (12) is formed by hot isostatic or uniaxial pressing of powdered first material.

60. (Amended) A method according to [claims 58 or 59] claim 58, characterized in that the first part (84) is formed as layer (84) between two formers (78, 82).

63. (Amended) A method according to [claims 61 or 62] claim 61, characterized in that the former (78) is made of steel, graphite or ceramic.

68. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 65 to 67] claim 65, characterized in that the channels (64, 94) have a width and depth of between 2 and 10mm.

69. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 65 to 68] claim 65, characterized in that the channels (64, 94) are lined with pipes (68, 96).

73. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 66 to 73] claim 66, characterized in that the first part (70, 98) and/or the base part (66, 92) are made of a tool or mould steel.

75. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 65 to 74] claim 65, characterized in that the third material is nickel or a nickel alloy.

76. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 65 to 75] claim 65, characterized in that a second part (76, 102) is provided on the surface of the base part (66, 104).

78. (Amended) A mould according to [claims 76 or 77] claim 76, characterized in that a layer of third material is provided between the second part (76, 102) and the base part (66, 104).

79. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 76 to 78] claim 76, characterized in that the second part (76, 102) is in the form of a substantially uniform thickness layer.

81. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 76 to 80] claim 76, characterized in that the second material comprises copper or a copper alloy.

82. (Amended) A mould according to [any of claims 65 to 81] claim 65, characterized in that the first part (70, 98) is in the form of a substantially uniform thickness layer.

84. (Amended) A method of forming a mould according to [any of claims 65 to 83] claim 65.

87. (Amended) A method according to [claims 85 or 86] claim 85, characterized in that the slots are lined with pipes (68, 96) which during the hot isostatic pressing expand to fill the slots (64, 94).

88. (Amended) A method according to [claims 85 or 86] claim 85, characterized in that the pipes (68, 96) are filled with a sacrificial powder such as graphite which is subsequently removed.

89. (Amended) A method according to [any of claims 84 to 88] claim 84, characterized

in that where a second part is provided between the first and base parts, the second part is located therebetween prior to pressing.

continued on next page

MOULDS AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

According to the present invention there is provided a mould, the mould comprising a first part made of a first material, the first part forming the mould surface; a second part made of a second material of a relatively high thermal conductivity, which thermal conductivity is significantly greater than that of the first material; and a third part of a third material, the third part being interposed between the first and second parts, the third part being in the form of a relatively thin layer, the third material being of a type to form

metallic bonds respectively with the first and second materials.

The third material preferably has a thermal conductivity which is not significantly less than the thermal conductivity of the first material, and desirably the thermal conductivity of the third material is greater.

The first material preferably comprises steel, preferably a tool, die or mould steel, and may be of the through-hardenable, prehardened, case hardening, corrosion resistant or maraging type. Typical examples would be H13 and AISI 420.

The second material may comprise copper, or a copper alloy, and desirably a copper alloy having a thermal conductivity greater than $60\text{Wm}^{-1}\text{deg}^{-1}\text{C}$ and preferably greater than $100\text{Wm}^{-1}\text{deg}^{-1}\text{C}$.

The third material may comprise nickel or a nickel alloy.

The second part may be in the form of one or more inserts locatable in one or more recesses in the first part.

The first part preferably provides a required minimum thickness of material for all of the mould surface, and said thickness may be 0.5mm.

The third part may be in the form of a coating on the first or second part or both. The coating is preferably between 2 and 200µm thick, and where the coating is formed by electroplating it is preferably 5 to 50µm thick and desirably substantially 25µm thick.

Holes may be provided extending through at least the first part to permit ejector pins to extend therethrough for rejection of items from the mould, or for core pins or slides.

Passages may be provided extending through the first and/or second

parts to permit cooling fluids and/or heating elements to extend therethrough. Desirably each passage only passes through components made of the first or second material and not both. An insert of the first material may be provided in the second part to receive a passage from the first part, or vice versa.

The mould may comprise a number of cooperable parts, with each part being according to the invention.

The first part may be made in two sections, a first section which defines the mould surface, and a second outer section. The second section may be made of a different material or grade of material to the first section.

Insert members may be provided in the second part. The insert members are preferably of a material of lower thermal expansion than the second material, and may be of the first material. The first part may be in the form of a generally constant thickness layer on the second member, and the layer may be 1 to 8mm thick.

The part of the first part which faces the second part and/or the part of the second part which faces the first part preferably have a relatively large surface area. Formations may be provided on said facing part or parts to increase the surface area, and said formations may comprise any of serrations, grooves or fins. Corresponding interengaging formations are preferably provided on each of the first and second parts.

The invention further comprises a method of making a mould, the mould being according to any of the preceding fourteen paragraphs.

A composite blank of the first, second and third materials is preferably produced, and then at least the first material machined to produce a mould, which mould is desirably substantially polished.

The composite blank may be formed by locating the first, second and

third materials together and subjecting to hot isostatic pressing to form metallic bonds respectively between the first and third, and second and third materials.

The pressing may take place in a sealed container, and preferably at a temperature of 400 to 1350°C, and desirably at a pressure of 400 to 3000 bar. The sealed container is preferably substantially evacuated of fluids prior to pressing.

Alternatively, the composite blank may be formed by locating the first, second and third materials together and subjecting to uniaxial pressing to form metallic bonds respectively between the first and third, and second and third materials.

The third part is preferably applied on to the first or second part by electroplating. Alternatively, the third part may be provided as a foil or applied by electroless plating.

The mould may be heat treated before and/or after machining.

The second part may be formed by machining.

Where the second part is in the form of one or more inserts locatable in one or more cavities in the first part, the second part may be formed by filling the or each cavity in the first part with the second material in powder form, which powder forms the second part during uniaxial or hot isostatic pressing.

Alternatively, the second part may be cast in the or each cavity in the first part.

When a method according to either of the above paragraphs is used, the walls of the or each cavity are preferably initially coated with a layer of the third material, which coating is preferably greater than 25µm thick.

Where the first part is in the form of a substantially constant thickness layer, the underside (non-moulding surface) of the first part may be machined from a block of first material. The second part is desirably subsequently located against the underside of the first part. The second part may be cast either directly on to the first material with the third part already located thereon, or may be cast separately.

The second material may be formed by locating the second material in powder form on the first part with the third part already located thereon, with the powder forming the second part during hot isostatic or uniaxial pressing.

Once the second part has been formed and bonded to the underside of the mould surface of the first part, the first part is preferably formed by machining.

The first part may be formed by hot isostatic or uniaxial pressing of powdered first material. The powder may be located against a former, which former could be produced by rapid prototyping. The first part may be formed as a layer between two formers.

The invention still further provides a method of forming a mould, the method comprising forming at least the part of the mould which provides the mould surface by hot isostatic pressing a powder located against one or more formers.

The invention yet further provides a method of forming a mould, the method comprising forming at least the part of the mould which provides the mould surface by uniaxial pressing a powder located against one or more formers.

The former may be made of steel, graphite or ceramic. These materials may be machined from solid; sintered from powder; or cast.

The invention also provides a mould, the mould comprising a first part of a first erosion resistant material, the first part forming the mould surface; a base part; a third part of a third material interposed between the first and base parts, the third part being in the form of a relatively thin layer, the third material being of a type to form metallic bonds, respectively with the first material and the material of the base part; channels being provided in the upper surface of the base part which surface engages against the third part, the channels being such as to enable cooling fluids and/or heating elements to be contained therein.

The third part is preferably between 5 and 50µm thick, and desirably substantially 25µm thick.

The channels preferably have a width and depth of between 2 and 10mm.

The channels are preferably lined with pipes. The pipes may be made of nickel. Alternatively the pipes may be made of copper or of stainless steel, and desirably with a nickel coating on the outside thereof.

The first part and/or the base part may be made of a tool or mould steel, and the base part may be made of a lower grade material. The third material is preferably nickel or a nickel alloy.

A second part may be provided on the surface of the base part, and the second part preferably comprises a material of greater thermal conductivity than the first material. A layer of third material may be provided between the second part and the base part. The second part may be in the form of a substantially uniform thickness layer, which may be between 0.5 and 15mm thick.

The second material may comprise copper or a copper alloy.

The first part is preferably in the form of a substantially uniform

thickness layer, which is desirably between 1 and 8mm.

The invention still further provides a method of forming a mould according to any of the preceding eight paragraphs.

The first part may be formed by machining a block of first material to a depth corresponding to the final thickness of the first part below the eventual mould surface; the base part is formed to correspond to the shape of the machined surface of the block of first material, a continuous slot is machined in the surface of the base part, the third part is provided between the first and base parts which are joined by hot isostatic pressing; the first part is subsequently machined to provide the mould surface.

The slots may be lined with pipes, and desirably pipes which during the hot isostatic pressing expand to fill the slots. Alternatively the pipes may be filled with a sacrificial powder such as graphite which is subsequently removed.

Where a second part is provided between the first and base parts, the second part is preferably located therebetween prior to pressing. The second part may be formed by casting, machining, electroplating on to the first or third part, or by filling the space between the first and base parts with powdered second material which bonds together during hot isostatic or uniaxial pressing.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of a mould according to the invention; and

Figs. 2 to 12 are similar cross-sectional side views of different moulds according to the invention during formation.

Fig. 1 shows a mould 10 which comprises a block 12 of tool steel. The

upper surface 14 of the block 12 has been machined to provide a required contour to define a mould cavity with other such moulds. Three recesses 16,18,20 are provided in the undersurface of the block 12 each extending to the same short spacing from the top thereof. Respective correspondingly shaped inserts 22,24,26 are provided slidably located respectively in the recesses 16,18,20. The inserts 22,24,26 are electroplated with nickel to provide a coating thereof of substantially 25µm.

The block 12 is formed from a tool steel H13. Alternatives would be a maraging tool steel, P20, AISI 420 or other alternatives. The inserts 22,24,26 are formed of C101 copper alloy but could be formed from copper, or copper chromium or copper zirconium or copper chromium/zirconium alloys, ODS copper alloys, or other high conductivity copper alloys including nickel containing and beryllium containing alloys.

Also provided in the block 12 are two through holes 28 to receive ejector pins, a hole 30 for separate cores, and a looped cooling channel 32. To avoid difficulties of machining dissimilar materials and avoid galvanic corrosion effects, it is desirable that cooling passages do not pass through the different materials of the block 12 and inserts 22,24,26. In view of this a lower part 34 as shown in the drawings of the insert 26 is formed of similar steel to the block 12, and the channel 32 extends therethrough.

The mould 40 of Fig. 2 is similar to the mould 10 except that the insert 26 is not formed in two parts, and the method and formation will therefore be described together. As indicated above an initial block 12 is taken and machined to provide the recesses 16,18,20. The nickel coated inserts 22,24,26 are located in the recesses and the mould 10 is placed in a steel can 42 and hot isostatically pressed. This causes the nickel to form metal bonds with the inserts 22,24,26 and more particularly with the surrounding surfaces of the block 12 to provide a good bond between the inserts 22,24,26 and the block. Following pressing the surface 14 is machined and polished.

In use, the mould 10 is found to have advantageous performance in that the inserts 22,24,26 of high thermal conductivity allow for quick cooling of moulded items. The nickel interlayer permits different expansion between the copper alloy and the steel, and absorbs stresses therebetween during formation and also use. The nickel layer also provides for good heat transfer therebetween. The moulds 10,40 can be made to be appropriate for any of the above described techniques.

Fig. 3 shows a mould 44 which is generally similar to the moulds 10,40 except that a lower part 46 of the block 12 is made of a lower grade steel and thus cost less.

The mould 48 of Fig. 4 is again similar except that a main core 50 of the insert 26 is made of steel which may be tool steel or low carbon or low alloy steel. This reduces thermal expansion mismatch and also cost, whilst providing better mechanical strength than a wholly copper alloy insert.

Rather than preforming the inserts, copper alloy powder could be located in the recesses 16,18,20, which (using suitable canning arrangements) can form the inserts 22,24,26 during hot isostatic pressing. Alternatively, the copper alloy could be cast into the recesses 16,18,20 to form the inserts 22,24,26. In either of these instances the recesses 16,18,20 require initial lining with a layer of nickel, which is preferably more than 25µm thick.

Rather than provide copper alloy inserts a copper alloy could be provided beneath the whole of the moulding surface 14. In Fig. 5 there is shown a mould 52 with a solid block of copper alloy 54 beneath a uniform thickness layer 56 of steel. The mould 52 is formed by correspondingly shaping the steel block 12 and alloy block 54 such that their connection is spaced approximately 5mm below the required moulding surface 14. A layer of nickel is again provided in-between and the two blocks 12,54 are bonded by hot isostatic pressing. The block 12 is subsequently machined and then polished to provide the moulding surface 14. The mould 58 of Fig. 6 is similar except that a lower part 60 of the

block 54 is formed of a low cost steel to provide the above outlined advantages. The block 54 could in fact be formed by casting or from powder as outlined above.

Fig. 7 shows a mould 62 in which cooling channels in the form of slots 64 are provided extending in an upper surface of a low alloy steel block 66. The slots 64 are lined with pipes 68 which are formed of nickel or nickel coated copper which during hot isostatic pressing expand to substantially fill the slots 64. A substantially uniform layer 70 of tool steel is provided on top of the block 66 to provide a moulding surface 14. The mould 62 is formed by shaping the block 66 and a block 72 of tool steel which subsequently provides the layer 70, and bonding these together with an intermediate nickel layer by hot isostatic pressing. The majority of the block 72 is then machined away to leave the layer 70. This provides for cooling channels immediately below the moulding surface which considerably increase the rate of heat removal. The channels conform to the shape of the mould cavity and are a uniform depth from the moulding surface, thereby providing consistent cooling. The pipes 68 used are flexible prior to pressing and thus usable with a wide range of shapes of mould. If pipes of a type which may collapse during pressing are used, these can be filled with a sacrificial powder such as graphite powder which can be subsequently oxidised in air.

Fig. 8 shows a similar mould 74 except that a copper alloy uniform thickness layer 76 is provided beneath the mould surface layer 70 and above the block 66. The layer 76 can be formed by any of the above described methods and will be metallurgically bonded to the block 66 and layer 70 by an intermediate nickel layer during hot isostatic pressing.

Rather than machining the steel part of the moulds, this can be formed by hot isostatic pressing of steel powder. Fig. 9 illustrates such an arrangement with a metal former 78 coated with a diffusion barrier to form a mould 80 from powdered steel which is located thereagainst and sandwiched by a solid base member 82 which may be formed of copper alloy, steel or otherwise, with a

nickel layer being provided on the top of the base member 82.

Fig. 10 shows a similar arrangement but where a thinner substantially uniform thickness layer 84 of tool steel is formed. In this instance the lower base member 86 has an upper contoured surface to correspond to the underside of the former 78. A filling hole 88 extends through the base member 86 to enable powdered material to be located between the former 78 and member 86.

Fig. 11 shows combinations of the above arrangements with a mould 90 with a base member 92 having slots 94 with pipes 96 therein to provide fluid cooling, and with a layer 98 of tool steel thereon to form a moulding surface 14. The mould 100 of Fig. 12 is similar to the mould 90 except that beneath the layer 98 is provided a layer 102 of copper alloy, and the slots 94 extend through the layer 102. The layer 102 is approximately 5mm thick and may be electro-deposited on to the steel base member 104. Alternatively, the layer 102 may be formed by machining or casting. Nickel intermediate layers are again provided to ensure good bonding during the hot isostatic pressing.

There are thus described a number of moulds and methods for making moulds which provide considerable advantages over prior arrangements. Various modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention. For example it can be advantageous for there to be a higher surface area between the tool steel or similar and the copper alloy or similar. This can be provided by providing cooperating formations such as grooves, fins, serrations or other formations to provide good heat transfer. Other formations or features could be provided than those described above.

Whilst hot isostatic pressing has been described in many of the above examples, in many instances it would also be possible to use uniaxial pressing. Heating elements could be provided in additional channels. It is to be realised that any combination of the above features can be made as conditions dictate. Where a former is used, rather than steel or another metal, graphite or castable ceramic could be used. In the latter case this is particularly advantageous in

that the former can readily be formed, and materials can easily be removed therefrom.

Whilst endeavouring in the foregoing specification to draw attention to those features of the invention believed to be of particular importance it should be understood that the Applicant claims protection in respect of any patentable feature or combination of features hereinbefore referred to and/or shown in the drawings whether or not particular emphasis has been placed thereon.

CLAIMS

1. A mould, the mould (10, 40, 44, 46, 48, 52, 58, 62, 74, 80, 90, 100) comprising a first part (12) made of a first material, the first part (12) forming the mould surface (14); a second part (22, 24, 26) made of a second material of a relatively high thermal conductivity, which thermal conductivity is significantly greater than that of the first material; and a third part of a third material, the third part being interposed between the first and second parts, the third part being in the form of a relatively thin layer, the third material being of a type to form metallic bonds respectively with the first and second materials.
2. A mould according to claim 1, characterised in that the third material has a thermal conductivity which is not significantly less than the thermal conductivity of the first material.
3. A mould according to claim 2, characterised in that the thermal conductivity of the third material is greater than the thermal conductivity of the first material.
4. A mould according to any of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the first material comprises steel.
5. A mould according to claim 4, characterised in that the first material comprises a tool, die or mould steel.
6. A mould according to claim 5, characterised in that the first material is of the through-hardenable, prehardened, case hardening, corrosion resistant or maraging type of steel.
7. A mould according to claims 5 and 6, characterised in that the first material comprises H13 or AISI 420.
8. A mould according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that

the second material comprises copper or a copper alloy.

9. A mould according to claim 8, characterised in that the second material comprises a copper alloy having a thermal conductivity greater than $60\text{Wm}^{-1}\text{deg}^{-1}\text{C}$.
10. A mould according to Claim 9, characterised in that the thermal conductivity is greater than $100\text{Wm}^{-1}\text{deg}^{-1}\text{C}$.
11. A mould according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the third material comprises nickel or a nickel alloy.
12. A mould according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the second part is in the form of one or more inserts (22, 24, 26) locatable in one or more recesses (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12).
13. A mould according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the first part (12) provides a required minimum thickness of material for all of the mould surface (14).
14. A mould according to claim 13, characterised in that the required minimum thickness is 0.5mm.
15. A mould according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the third part is in the form of a coating on the first or second part or both.
16. A mould according to claim 15, characterised in that the coating is between 2 and $200\mu\text{m}$ thick.
17. A mould according to claims 15 and 16, characterised in that the coating is formed by electroplating and is 5 to $50\mu\text{m}$ thick.
18. A mould according to claim 17, characterised in that the coating is

substantially 25µm thick.

19. A mould according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that holes (28) are provided extending through at least the first part to permit ejector pins to extend therethrough for rejection of items from the mould (10), or for core pins or slides.

20. A mould according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that passages (32) are provided extending through the first (12) and/or second (22, 24, 26) parts to permit cooling fluids and/or heating elements to extend therethrough.

21. A mould according to claim 20, characterised in that each passage (32) only passes through components made of the first or second material and not both.

22. A mould according to claims 20 or 21, characterised in that an insert (34) of the first material is provided in the second part (26) to receive a passage (32) from the first part (12), or vice versa.

23. A mould according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that the mould comprises a number of cooperable parts, with each part being according to the invention.

24. A mould according to claim 23, characterised in that the first part (12) is made in two sections, a first section (12) which defines the mould surface (14), and a second outer section (46).

25. A mould according to claim 24, characterised in that the second section (46) is made of a different material or grade of material to the first section (12).

26. A mould according to any of claims 23 to 25, characterised in that insert members (50) are provided in the second part (26).

27. A mould according to claim 26, characterised in that the insert members (50) are of a material of lower thermal expansion than the second material.
28. A mould according to claims 26 or 27, characterised in that the insert members (50) are of the first material.
29. A mould according to any of claims 23 to 28, characterised in that the first part (12) is in the form of a generally constant thickness layer (56) on the second member (54).
30. A mould according to claim 29, characterised in that the layer (56) is 1 to 8mm thick.
31. A mould according to any of claims 23 to 30, characterised in that the part of the first part (12) which faces the second part and/or the part of the second part which faces the first part (12) have a relatively large surface area.
32. A mould according to claim 31, characterised in that formations are provided on said facing part or parts to increase the surface area.
33. A mould according to claim 32, characterised in that said formations comprise any of serrations, grooves or fins.
34. A mould according to claims 32 or 33, characterised in that corresponding interengaging formations are provided on each of the first and second parts.
35. A method of making a mould, characterised in that the mould (10, 40, 44, 48, 52, 58, 62, 74, 80, 90, 100) is according to any of the preceding claims:
36. A method according to claim 35, characterised in that a composite blank of the first, second and third materials is produced, and then at least the first material is machined to produce a mould (40).

37. A method according to claim 36, characterised in that the mould (40) is substantially polished.
38. A method according to claims 36 or 37, characterised in that the composite blank is formed by locating the first, second and third materials together and subjecting to hot isostatic pressing to form metallic bonds respectively between the first and third, and second and third materials.
39. A method according to claim 38, characterised in that the pressing takes place in a sealed container.
40. A method according to claims 38 or 39, characterised in that the pressing takes place at a temperature of 400 to 1350°C.
41. A method according to any of claims 38 to 40, characterised in that the pressing takes place at a pressure of 400 to 3000 bar.
42. A method according to any of claims 39 to 41, characterised in that the sealed container is substantially evacuated of fluids prior to pressing.
43. A method according to claims 36 or 37, characterised in that the composite blank may be formed by locating the first, second and third materials together and subjecting to uniaxial pressing to form metallic bonds respectively between the first and third, and second and third materials.
44. A method according to any of claims 38 to 43, characterised in that the third part is applied on to the first (12) or second part by electroplating.
45. A method according to any of claims 38 to 43, characterised in that the third part is provided as a foil or applied by electroless plating.
46. A method according to any of claims 35 to 45, characterised in that the mould is heat treated before and/or after machining.

47. A method according to any of claims 35 to 46, characterised in that the second part may be formed by machining.

48. A method according to any of claims 35 to 47, characterised in that where the second part is in the form of one or more inserts (22, 24, 26) locatable in one or more cavities (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12), the second part is formed by filling the or each cavity (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12) with the second material in powder form, which powder forms the second part (22, 24, 26) during uniaxial or hot isostatic pressing.

49. A method according to any of claims 35 to 47, characterised in that where the second part (22, 24, 26) is in the form of one or more sheets locatable in one or more cavities in the first part, the second part (22, 24, 26) is cast in the or each cavity (16, 18, 20) in the first part (12).

50. A method according to claims 48 or 49, characterised in that the walls of the or each cavity (16, 18, 20) are initially coated with a layer of the third material.

51. A method according to claim 50, characterised in that the coating is greater than 25µm thick.

52. A method according to any of claims 35 to 51, characterised in that where the first part (12) is in the form of a substantially constant thickness layer, the underside (non-moulding surface) of the first part (12) is machined from a block of first material.

53. A method according to claim 52, characterised in that the second part (54) is subsequently located against the underside of the first part (12).

54. A method according to claim 53, characterised in that the second part (54) is cast either directly on to the first material with the third part already located thereon, or is cast separately.

55. A method according to claim 54, characterised in that the second material is formed by locating the second material in powder form on the first part (12) with the third part already located thereon, with the powder forming the second part (54) during hot isostatic or uniaxial pressing.

56. A method according to claims 54 or 55, characterised in that once the second part (54) has been formed and bonded to the underside of the mould surface of the first part (12), the first part (12) is formed by machining.

57. A method according to any of claims 35 to 56, characterised in that the first part (12) is formed by hot isostatic or uniaxial pressing of powdered first material.

58. A method according to claim 57, characterised in that the powder is located against a former (78).

59. A method according to claim 58, characterised in that the former (78) is produced by rapid prototyping.

60. A method according to claims 58 or 59, characterised in that the first part (84) is formed as a layer (84) between two formers (78, 82).

61. A method of forming a mould (80), the method comprising forming at least the part of the mould (80) which provides the mould surface by hot isostatic pressing a powder located against one or more formers (78, 82).

62. A method of forming a mould (80), the method comprising forming at least the part of the mould (80) which provides the mould surface by uniaxial pressing a powder located against one or more formers (78, 82).

63. A method according to claims 61 or 62, characterised in that the former (78) is made of steel, graphite or ceramic.

64. A method according to claim 63, characterised in that these materials are machined from solid; sintered from powder; or cast.

65. A mould, the mould (62, 74, 90, 100) comprising a first part (70, 98) of a first erosion resistant material, the first part (70, 98) forming the mould surface (14); a base part (66, 92); a third part of a third material interposed between the first (70, 98) and base parts (66, 92), the third part being in the form of a relatively thin layer, the third material being of a type to form metallic bonds, respectively with the first material and the material of the base part (66, 92); channels (64, 94) being provided in the upper surface of the base part (66, 92) which surface engages against the third part, the channels (64, 94) being such as to enable cooling fluids and/or heating elements to be contained therein.

66. A mould according to claim 65, characterised in that the third part is between 5 and 50µm thick.

67. A mould according to claim 66, characterised in that the third part is substantially 25µm thick.

68. A mould according to any of claims 65 to 67, characterised in that the channels (64, 94) have a width and depth of between 2 and 10mm.

69. A mould according to any of claims 65 to 68, characterised in that the channels (64, 94) are lined with pipes (68, 96).

70. A mould according to claim 69, characterised in that the pipes (68, 96) are made of nickel.

71. A mould according to claim 69, characterised in that the pipes (68, 96) are made of copper or of stainless steel.

72. A mould according to claim 71, characterised in that the pipes (68, 96) are provided with a nickel coating on the outside thereof.

73. A mould according to any of claims 66 to 73, characterised in that the first part (70, 98) and/or the base part (66, 92) are made of a tool or mould steel.

74. A mould according to claim 73, characterised in that the base part (66, 92) is made of a lower grade material.

75. A mould according to any of claims 65 to 74, characterised in that the third material is nickel or a nickel alloy.

76. A mould according to any of claims 65 to 75, characterised in that a second part (76, 102) is provided on the surface of the base part (66, 104).

77. A mould according to claim 76, characterised in that the second part (76, 102) comprises a material of greater thermal conductivity than the first material.

78. A mould according to claims 76 or 77, characterised in that a layer of third material is provided between the second part (76, 102) and the base part (66, 104).

79. A mould according to any of claims 76 to 78, characterised in that the second part (76, 102) is in the form of a substantially uniform thickness layer.

80. A mould according to claim 77, characterised in that the second part (76, 102) is between 0.5 and 15mm thick.

81. A mould according to any of claims 76 to 80, characterised in that the second material comprises copper or a copper alloy.

82. A mould according to any of claims 65 to 81, characterised in that the first part (70, 98) is in the form of a substantially uniform thickness layer.

83. A mould according to claim 82, characterised in that the layer is between 1 and 8mm.
84. A method of forming a mould according to any of claims 65 to 83.
85. A method according to claim 84, characterised in that the first part (70, 98) is formed by machining a block of first material to a depth corresponding to the final thickness of the first part (70, 98) below the eventual mould surface; the base part (66, 92) is formed to correspond to the shape of the machined surface of the block of first material, a continuous slot is machined in the surface of the base part (66, 92), the third part is provided between the first (70, 98) and base (66, 92) parts which are joined by hot isostatic pressing; the first part (70, 98) is subsequently machined to provide the mould surface (14).
86. A method according to claim 85, characterised in that the slots (64, 94) are lined with pipes (68, 96).
87. A method according to claims 85 or 86, characterised in that the slots are lined with pipes (68, 96) which during the hot isostatic pressing expand to fill the slots (64, 94).
88. A method according to claims 85 or 86, characterised in that the pipes (68, 96) are filled with a sacrificial powder such as graphite which is subsequently removed.
89. A method according to any of claims 84 to 88, characterised in that where a second part is provided between the first and base parts, the second part is located therebetween prior to pressing.
90. A method according to claim 89, characterised in that the second part is formed by casting, machining, electroplating on to the first or third part, or by filling the space between the first and base parts with powdered second material which bonds together during hot isostatic or uniaxial pressing.

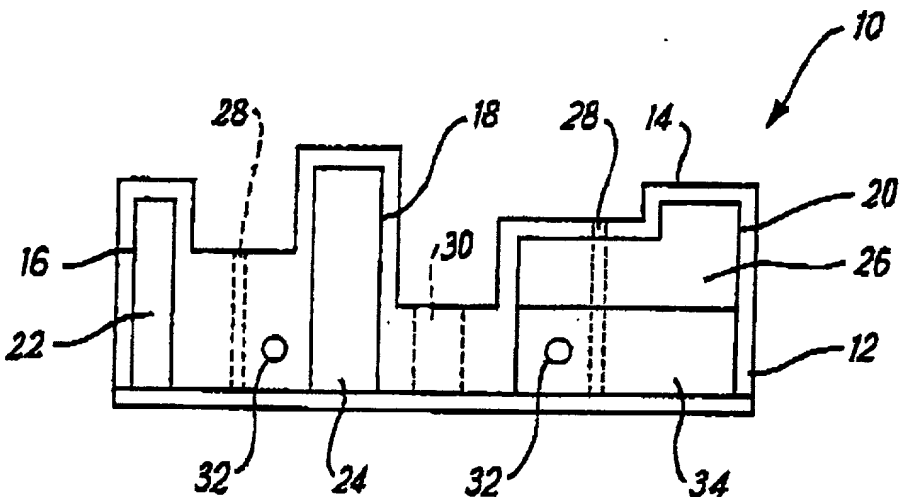


FIG. 1

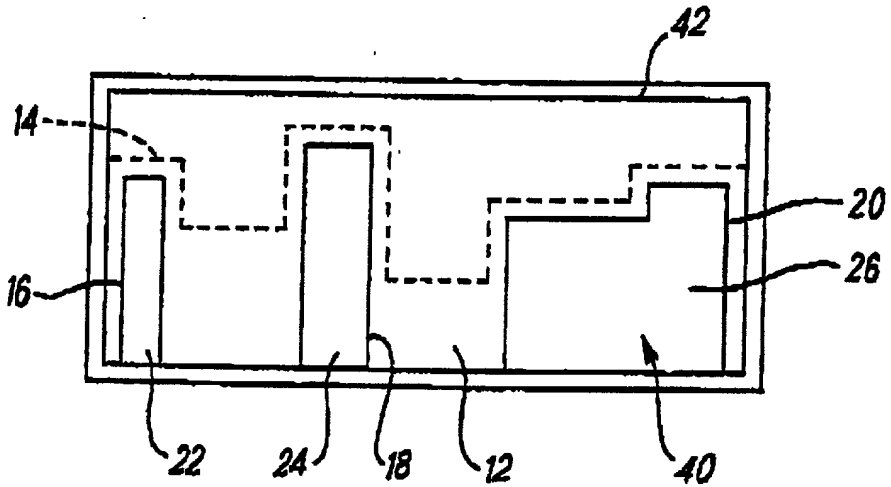


FIG. 2

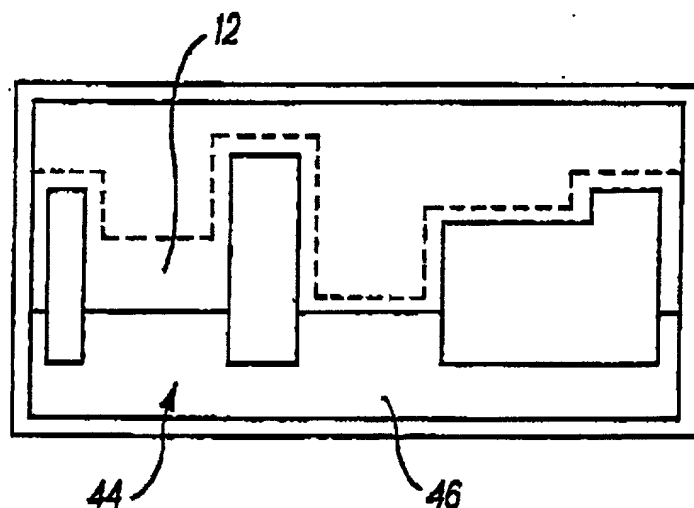


Fig. 3

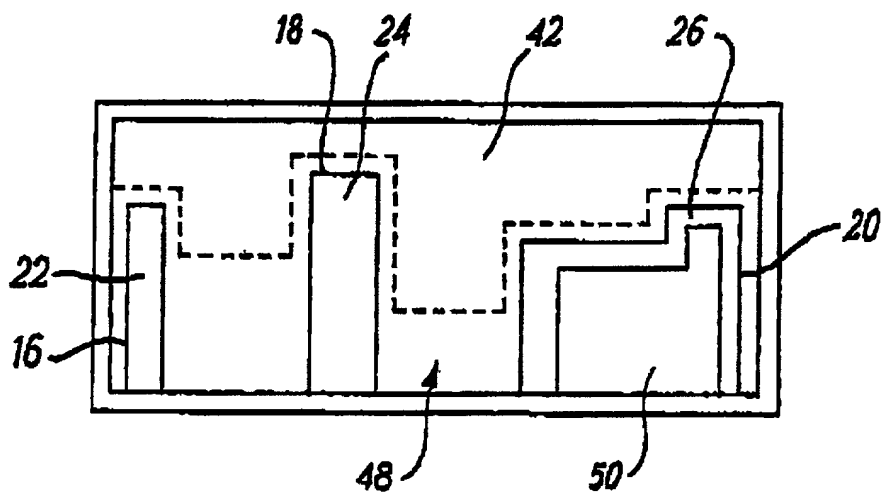
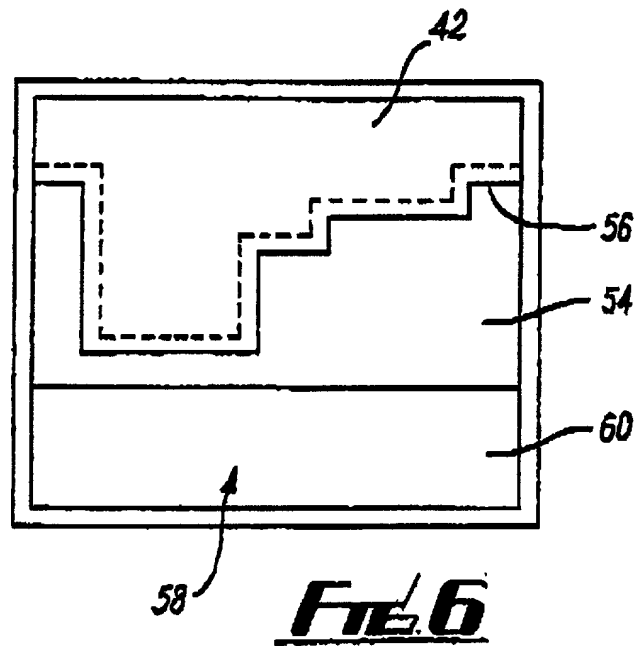
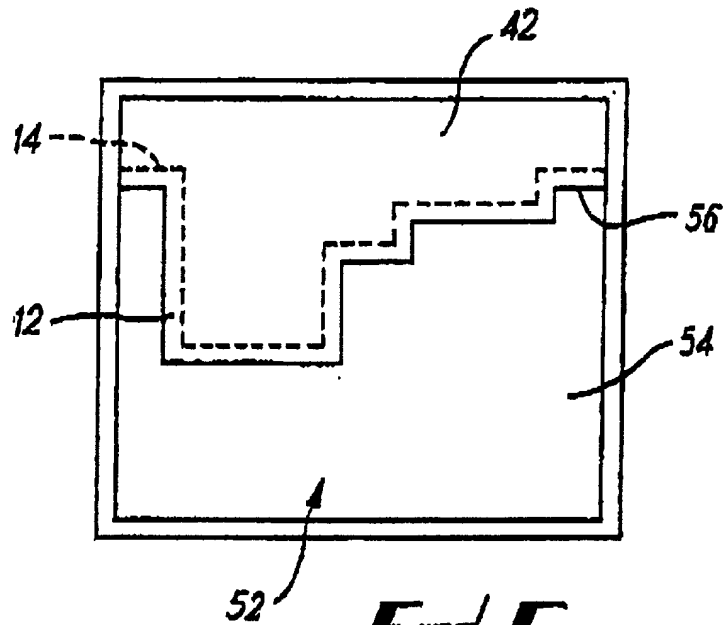


Fig. 4



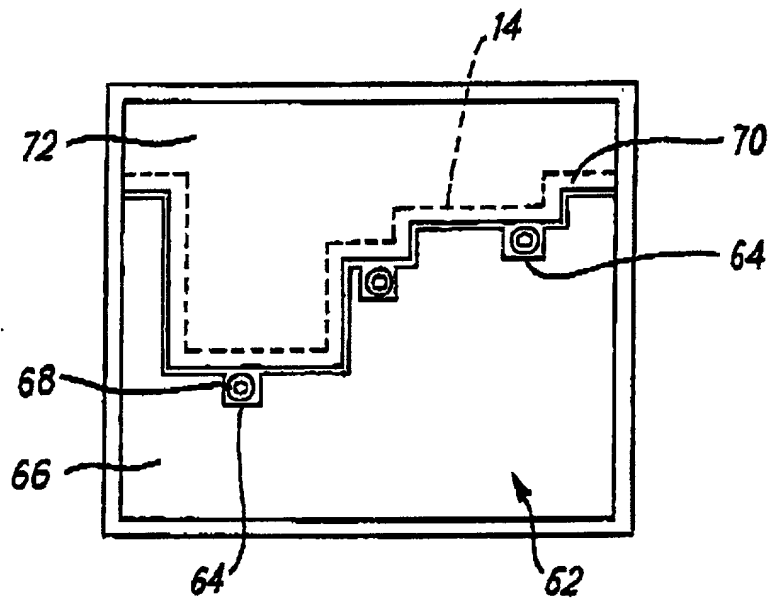


Fig. 7

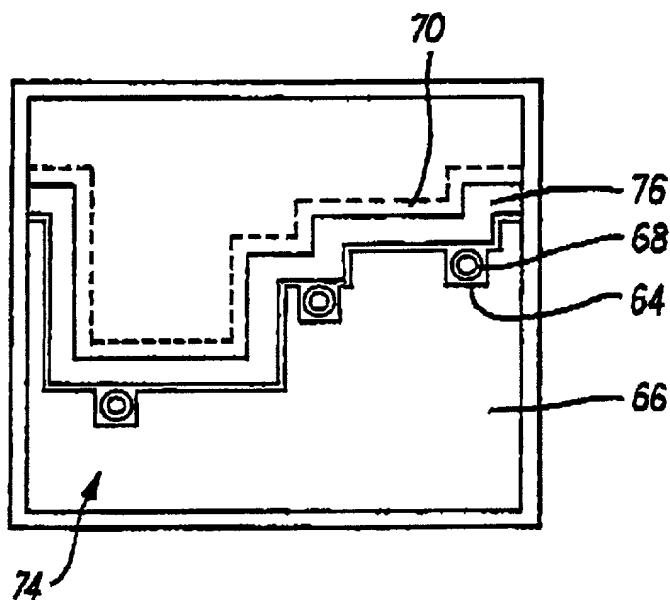


Fig. 8

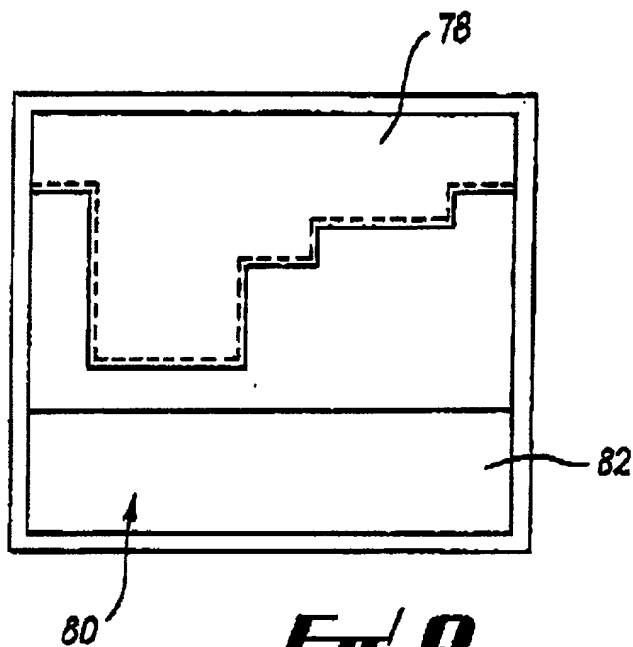


Fig. 9

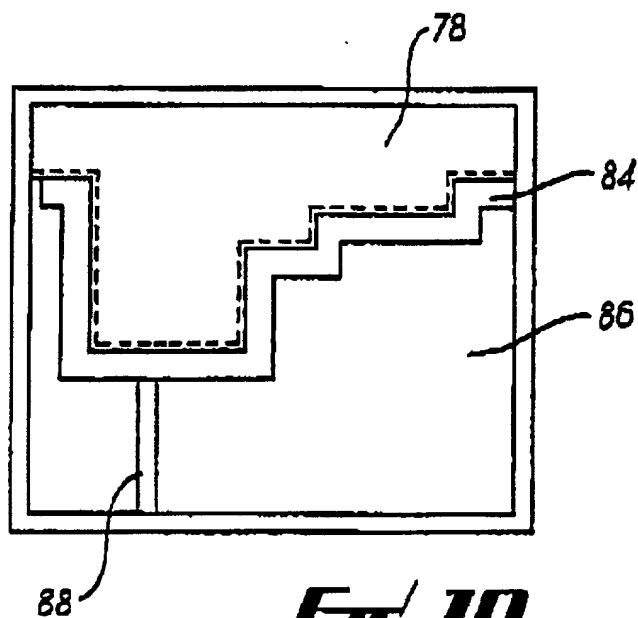
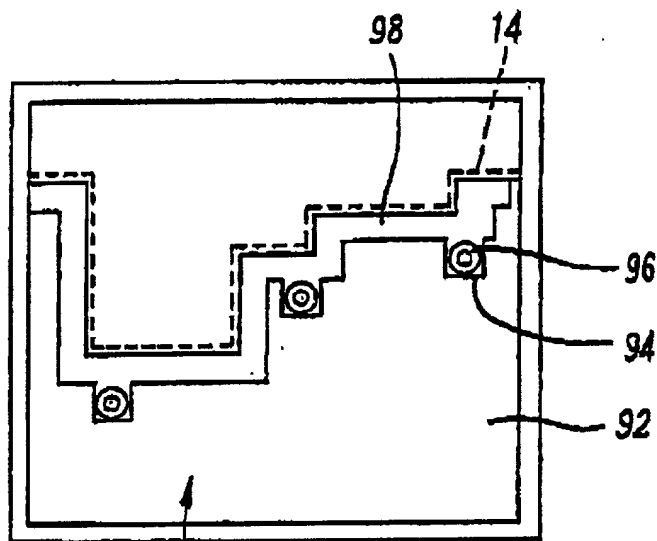
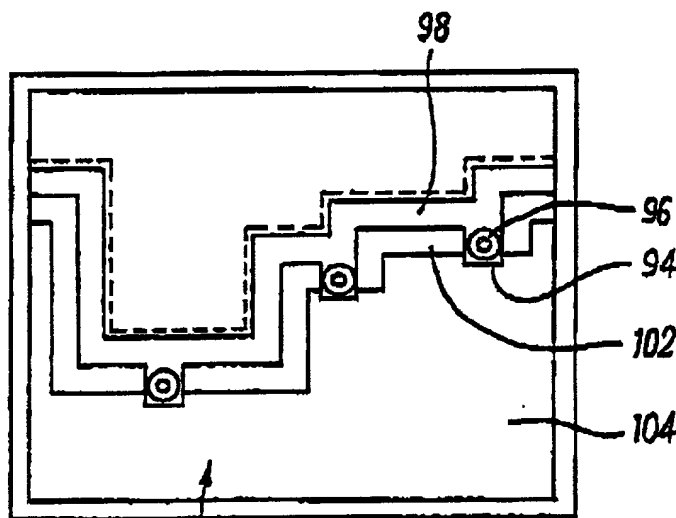


Fig. 10



90

Fig. 11



100

Fig. 12

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CERAM

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Moulds and method of making the same

the specification of which:

- () is attached hereto.
- (X) was filed on August 17, 2001
as Application serial no. 09/913,821
and was amended on August 17, 2001
- (X) was described and claimed in PCT International Application No.
PCT/GB00/00627, filed on 23rd February 2000 and amended under
PCT Article 19 on

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

If this application is a continuation-in-part application, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Priority Claimed (Yes/No)</u>
9904205.3	United Kingdom	25th February 1999	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below, and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner

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provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing of this application:

Application Serial No. Filing Date Status - Patented, Pending, Abandoned

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: W THAD ADAMS, III, REG No. 29,037; JEFFREY J. SCHWARTZ, REG NO. 37,532; J DEREL MONTEITH, JR., REG. NO. 45,464 and T. PEIGE WISE, REG. NO. 44,407; addressed to:

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